

CLAIMS:

1. A resource version control facility for use in a distributed computer system of the type having a central project parameter datastore for storing project parameter data, a local server
 5 communicating with the datastore having receiving means for receiving and validating a data access request from at least one project management workstation connected to the local server, wherein the receiving means comprises means for extracting a resource type and user identifier from the data access request by reading at least one position dependent data segment from the data access request, means for validating the data access request by comparing a
 10 composite dataword provided by the identified resource type and the user identifier against equivalent length datawords contained in a secure memory array of valid composite datawords and means for retrieving a resource data block and attached resource status register associated with the validated data access request, accessing the resource status register to isolate a data portion containing a version identifier associated with the resource data block, transmitting a
 15 copy of the resource data block to the amendment workstation, locking the resource data block by setting a write protection bit in the resource status register and generating a replacement resource data block in the central datastore.

2. A resource version control facility as claimed in claim 1 including means for detecting the
 20 presence of a replacement resource data block in the central datastore associated with a validated data access request from a amendment workstation and transmitting the replacement resource data block to the amendment workstation.

3. A resource version control facility as claimed in claim 1 wherein the receiving means
 25 comprises:-

means for identifying the code type of the data access request as a code return request by comparing a position dependent data segment from the data access request against a plurality of data access request types stored in a secure code type memory array; and

means for retrieving the replacement resource data block from the central datastore and validating the code return request by comparing portion of the identified code type, the identified version identifier and the user identifier of the code return request against the version identifier and user identifier stored in the replacement resource data block.

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4. A resource version control facility as claimed in claim 1 incorporating:-

means for identifying the code type of the data access request as a code regression request by comparing a position dependent data segment from the data access request against a plurality of data access request types stored in a secure code type memory array;

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means for retrieving a resource data block associated with the code regression request and the code difference file, and

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means for sequentially reading each portion of the code difference file, locating an associated portion in the retrieved resource data block for each read portion and substituting the read portion of the code difference file for the associated portion of the retrieved resource data block, decrementing the version identifier associated with the retrieved resource data block and storing the resource data block.

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5. A resource version control facility as claimed in claim 1 incorporating: -

means for identifying the code type of the data access request as a code create request by comparing a position dependent data segment from the data access request against a plurality of data access request types stored in a secure code type memory array; and

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means for creating a version identifier for a resource data block associated with the code create request and storing the resource data block, resource status register containing an associated version identifier on the central datastore.

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6. A resource version control facility for use in a distributed computer system of the type having a central datastore for storing software code, a local server communicating with the central datastore having receiving means for receiving and validating a data access request from at least one amendment workstation connected to the local server, wherein the receiving means comprises:-

means for extracting a code type and user identifier from the data access request by reading at least one position dependent data segment from the data access request;

means for validating the data access request by comparing a composite dataword provided by the identified code type and the user identifier against the equivalent length datawords contained in a secure memory array of valid composite datawords; and

means for detecting the presence of a replacement resource data block in the central datastore associated with a validated data access request from an amendment workstation and transmitting the replacement resource data block to the amendment workstation.

7. A version control facility for use in a distributed computer system of the type having a central datastore for storing software code, a local server communicating with the central datastore having receiving means for receiving and validating a data access request from at least one amendment workstation connected to the local server, wherein the receiving means comprises:-

means for extracting a code type and user identifier from the data access request by reading at least one position dependent data segment from the data access request;

means for validating the data access request by comparing a composite dataword provided by the identified code type and the user identifier against equivalent length datawords contained in a secure memory array of valid composite datawords;

5 means for identifying the code type of the data access request as a code return request by comparing a position dependent data segment from the data access request against a plurality of data access request types stored in a secure code type memory array; and

10 means for retrieving the replacement resource data block from the central datastore and validating the code return request by comparing portion of the identified code type, the identified version identifier and the user identifier of the code return request against the version identifier and user identifier stored in the replacement resource data block.

15 8. A resource version control facility for use in a distributed computer system of the type having a central datastore for storing software code, a local server communicating with the central datastore having receiving means for receiving and validating a data access request from at least one amendment workstation connected to the local server, wherein the receiving means comprises:-

20 means for extracting a code type and user identifier from the data access request by reading at least one position dependent data segment from the data access request;

25 means for validating the data access request by comparing a composite dataword provided by the identified code type and the user identifier against equivalent length datawords contained in a secure memory array of valid composite datawords;

means for identifying the code type of the data access request as a code regression request by comparing a position dependent data segment from the data access request

against a plurality of data access request types stored in a secure code type memory array;

means for retrieving a resource data block associated with the code regression request and the code difference file, and

means for sequentially reading each portion of the code difference file, locating an associated portion in the retrieved resource data block for each read portion and substituting the read portion of the code difference file for the associated portion of the retrieved resource data block, decrementing the version identifier associated with the retrieved resource data block and storing the resource data block.

